

Senate File 478 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 478

BY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 1047)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to lighting devices and other equipment on snow
2 plows and authorized emergency vehicles.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 321.393, subsections 4 and 5, Code 2019,
2 are amended to read as follows:

3 4. The provisions of this section shall not prohibit the
4 use of a lighting device or reflector displaying an amber light
5 when such lighting device or reflector is mounted on a motor
6 truck, trailer, tractor, or motor grader owned by the state,
7 or any political subdivision of the state, ~~or any municipality~~
8 therein including any local authority, while such equipment is
9 being used for snow removal, sanding, maintenance, or repair of
10 the public streets or highways.

11 5. The provisions of this section shall not prohibit the
12 use of a lighting device or reflector displaying an amber,
13 white, or blue light when the lighting device or reflector is
14 rear-facing and mounted on a motor truck, trailer, tractor,
15 truck-mounted snow blower, or motor grader owned by the
16 ~~department~~ state or any political subdivision of the state,
17 including any local authority, while the equipment is being
18 used for snow and ice treatment or removal on the public
19 streets or highways.

20 Sec. 2. Section 321.423, subsection 2, paragraph f, Code
21 2019, is amended to read as follows:

22 *f.* A flashing white light, including a flashing headlamp, is
23 permitted on a vehicle pursuant to subsection 7.

24 Sec. 3. Section 321.423, subsection 3, paragraph a,
25 subparagraph (3), Code 2019, is amended to read as follows:

26 (3) An authorized emergency vehicle, other than a vehicle
27 described in paragraph "a", subparagraph (1) or (2), ~~if the blue~~
28 ~~light is positioned on the passenger side of the vehicle and is~~
29 ~~used in conjunction with a red light positioned on the driver~~
30 ~~side of the vehicle.~~

31 Sec. 4. Section 321.423, subsection 3, paragraph a,
32 subparagraph (4), Code 2019, is amended to read as follows:

33 (4) A motor truck, trailer, tractor, truck-mounted snow
34 blower, or motor grader owned by the ~~department~~ state or
35 any political subdivision of the state, including any local

1 authority, if the blue light is rear-facing and used in
2 conjunction with amber and white lighting devices or reflectors
3 while the equipment is being used for snow and ice treatment or
4 removal on the public streets or highways.

5 Sec. 5. Section 321.423, subsection 7, paragraph a,
6 subparagraph (4), Code 2019, is amended to read as follows:

7 (4) On a motor truck, trailer, tractor, truck-mounted
8 snow blower, or motor grader owned by the ~~department~~ state or
9 any political subdivision of the state, including any local
10 authority, if the white light is rear-facing and used in
11 conjunction with amber and blue lighting devices or reflectors
12 while the equipment is being used for snow and ice treatment or
13 removal on the public streets or highways.

14 Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. **321.424 Authorized emergency vehicle**
15 **lights.**

16 Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary:

17 1. An authorized emergency vehicle may be equipped with
18 a combination of interior and exterior lights, flashing
19 headlamps, and flashing tail lamps as provided in this section
20 and in this chapter.

21 2. An official law enforcement, fire department, or
22 emergency medical services vehicle owned by the state or a
23 municipality, as defined in section 670.1, may be equipped with
24 flashing headlamps.

25 3. An authorized emergency vehicle owned by the state,
26 a municipality, as defined in section 670.1, or a private
27 emergency medical services company delivering services to the
28 state, a municipality, or a hospital pursuant to a written
29 contract, or a privately owned vehicle designated as an
30 authorized emergency vehicle pursuant to section 321.451, may
31 be equipped with a combination of operational red and blue
32 lights. However, a towing or recovery vehicle, unless owned
33 by the state or a municipality, shall not be equipped with red
34 and blue lights.

35 4. An authorized emergency vehicle equipped with an

1 interior or exterior light bar may position front and rear
2 facing red lights on the driver's side of the vehicle and front
3 and rear facing blue lights on the passenger's side of the
4 vehicle.

5 5. An authorized emergency vehicle equipped with an
6 interior or exterior light bar with red and blue flashing
7 lights may be equipped with flashing or solid white lights
8 scattered among or between a clear or colored lens that
9 displays a red or blue flashing light.

10 6. An authorized emergency vehicle may be equipped with one
11 or more lights capable of emitting a split red and blue steady
12 or flashing light, which may be mounted on or in the vehicle.

13 7. An authorized emergency vehicle may be equipped with one
14 or more lights on the side of the vehicle capable of emitting
15 red and blue light, red and white light, or blue and white
16 light.

17 8. An authorized emergency vehicle may be equipped with one
18 or more lights with a clear or colored lens.

19 9. An official law enforcement, fire, rescue, or emergency
20 medical services vehicle may be equipped with lights or
21 light bars containing one or more rear zone amber lights or
22 amber directional arrows, which shall be in addition to any
23 other required lighting equipment. An authorized emergency
24 vehicle shall not be equipped with an amber light positioned
25 on the front or side of the vehicle. However, an aerial fire
26 apparatus may be equipped with amber flashing lights on the
27 outriggers of the apparatus.

28 10. An authorized emergency vehicle may be equipped with
29 one or more steady, oscillating, or flashing white lights,
30 flashing headlamps, or flashing reverse lamps, which shall be
31 in addition to any other required lighting equipment. A light
32 bar shall not be equipped or used to display flashing white
33 lights visible from the rear of the vehicle. This subsection
34 shall not be construed to prohibit an authorized emergency
35 vehicle owned by the state or a municipality, as defined in

1 section 670.1, from being equipped with or using a spotlight or
2 exterior light bar capable of displaying a steady white light
3 for use as a work light, alley light, search light, or take
4 down light.

5 11. An authorized emergency vehicle owned by a state or a
6 municipality, as defined in section 670.1, that is primarily
7 used as an incident command vehicle may be equipped with one
8 or more steady or flashing green lights, which shall be in
9 addition to any other required lighting equipment. A steady
10 or flashing green light equipped pursuant to this subsection
11 shall not be activated unless the vehicle is being used as
12 a stationary incident command post at the location of an
13 emergency incident, an official training exercise, or for
14 maintenance or demonstration purposes.

15 Sec. 7. Section 321.433, Code 2019, is amended to read as
16 follows:

17 **321.433 Sirens, whistles, and bells prohibited.**

18 1. A vehicle shall not be equipped with and a person shall
19 not use upon a vehicle any siren, whistle, or bell, except as
20 otherwise permitted in [this section](#). It is permissible but not
21 required that any commercial vehicle be equipped with a theft
22 alarm signal device which is so arranged that it cannot be used
23 by the driver as an ordinary warning signal. Any authorized
24 emergency vehicle may be equipped with a siren, whistle, or
25 bell capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions
26 from a distance of not less than five hundred feet, but the
27 siren, whistle, or bell shall not be used except when the
28 vehicle is operated in response to an emergency call or in
29 the immediate pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of
30 the law, and the driver of the vehicle shall sound the siren,
31 whistle, or bell when necessary to warn pedestrians and other
32 drivers of the approach of the vehicle.

33 2. A towing or recovery vehicle, unless owned by the state
34 or a municipality, as defined in section 670.1, shall not be
35 equipped with a siren.

1

EXPLANATION

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The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

3

4 In 2015, the general assembly authorized motor trucks,
5 trailers, tractors, truck-mounted snow blowers, and motor
6 graders owned by the department of transportation and used for
7 snow and ice treatment or removal to display rear-facing blue
8 and white lighting devices or reflectors in conjunction with
9 amber lighting devices or reflectors. These authorizations
10 were set to be repealed July 1, 2019. In 2018, the general
11 assembly struck these future repeal provisions.

12 This bill applies those authorizations to such vehicles
13 owned by the state or any political subdivision of the
14 state, including any local authority. Under Code chapter
15 321, a "local authority" is any county, municipal, and other
16 local board or body having authority to adopt local police
17 regulations under the constitution and laws of the state.

18 The bill allows authorized emergency vehicles to be equipped
19 with a variety of lighting devices, including flashing
20 headlamps, red and blue lights, flashing or solid white lights,
21 split red and blue steady or flashing lights, and lights or
22 light bars containing one or more rear zone amber lights or
23 amber directional arrows. In addition, an incident command
24 vehicle may be equipped with one or more steady or flashing
25 green lights. However, a towing or recovery vehicle, unless
26 owned by the state or a municipality, is prohibited from being
27 equipped with red and blue lights and a siren.